

Annual Report

OF THE

Medical Officer of Health

FOR 1937.

*To the Chairman and Members of the BLACKROD URBAN
DISTRICT COUNCIL.*

GENTLEMEN,

I beg to present my Annual Report on the Health and Sanitary Conditions of the District during the year 1937.

General Statistics.

Area (Acres)	2392.394
Population (Census 1931)	3,599
Number of Inhabited Houses	910
Rateable value	£10,802
Sum represented by a Penny Rate	£42/1/11

Extracts from vital Statistics during the year 1937.

		Total	Males	Females
Live Births {	Legitimate	41	24	17
	Illegitimate	1	—	1
	Total	42	24	18

Birth-rate per 1000 of the estimated resident population, 12.7

Still-births 3 2 1

Rate per 1000 total (live and still) births, 66.

Deaths 42 20 22

Death-rate per 1000 of the estimated resident population 12.7.

Deaths from Puerperal Causes :—

Puerperal Sepsis, nil. Other Puerperal causes, 1. Total 1

Death-rate per 1000 total (live and still) births, 22.22

Death-rate of Infants under 1 year of age :

Death of Infants under 1 year of age.	...	3
All Infants per 1000 live births	...	71
Legitimate Infants per 1000 legitimate live births	...	73
Illegitimate Infants per 1000 Illegitimate live births	...	nil
Deaths from Cancer (all ages)	...	2
Deaths from Measles (all ages)	...	nil
Deaths from Whooping Cough (all ages)	...	nil
Deaths from Diarrhoea under (2 years of age)	...	nil

Population 3284

	Rate per 1,000 of Estimated Population				Maternal Mortality Rate		Rate of Deaths under 1 year per 1,000 live birth
	Live Birth-rate	Crude Death-rate	Death-rate from Tuberculosis of Respiratory System	Death-rate from Cancer	per 1,000 Live Births	per 1,000 Total (Live and Still Births)	
Mean of 5 years 1932—36	14.4	11.3	0.33	1.20	3.92	3.77	47
Year—							
1936	...	13.4	0.29	1.19	—	—	44
1937	...	12.7	0.30	0.60	23.80	22.22	71
Increase or decrease in 1937 on—							
5 years' aver 1932—36	—1.7	+1.4	—0.03	—0.60	+19.88	+18.45	—24
Previous year	...	—0.7	+0.01	—0.59	+23.80	+22.22	+27

Notifiable Diseases during the Year.

	Total at all ages	Under 1 year	1-2	2-3	3-4	4-5	5 to 10	10 to 15	15 to 20	20 to 35	35 to 45	45 to 65	65 and over	Cases removed to Hospital	Deaths in Hospital	Total deaths
Scarlet Fever	28			3	2	3	15	3	1	1				28		
Diphtheria	2						1	1						2		
Enteric Fever	1									1				1		
Pneumonia	2										1	1				3
Puerperal Fever	1									1						
Erysipelas	3									3						
Ophthalmia Neonatorum	1	1														
	38	1		3	2	3	16	4	1	6	1	1		31		3

Causes of Deaths during the year.

	Males.	Females.
Pneumonia	3	0
Tuberculosis Resp. Sys.	0	1
Other Tuberculosis diseases... ..	1	1
Cancer	0	2
Bronchitis	1	3
Heart Disease	7	9
Cerebral Hæmorrhage	1	2
Diabetes	0	1
Senility	1	0
Congenital Debility	3	0
Puerperal Diseases (other than Sepsis)	0	1
Other defined Diseases	3	1
Ill defined Diseases	0	1
	—	—
Total	20	22

Causes of Sickness during the year.

There were 38 cases of Infectious disease notified during the year, 28 of these being Scarlet Fever; although there was not at any what one could call an epidemic, yet 23 of the 28 cases occurred during the four months of August, September, October and November. The year opened with a slight epidemic of Influenza, making it necessary to close the Scot Lane School for a period of two weeks in January. Otherwise, there has been nothing remarkable during the year.

Nursing Arrangements.

There is 1 Midwife registered, and 1 practising.

Hospital Accommodation.

For Smallpox—No provision.

Other Infectious Diseases:—Joint Hospital, situated at Fall Birch, Horwich, with subscription in proportion to population. There are 54 beds in all, but no special number is allotted to any one district. This is my latest estimate of capacity as M.O. of Inf. Dis. Hosp.

The Public Health Staff consists of a part time Medical Officer, and a Sanitary Inspector who is also a part time officer holding the appointment of Rate Collector.

A Visiting Nurse is provided by the County and we have a District Maternity Nurse.

Sanitary Administration.

WATER SUPPLY.

- (a) Source of Water Supply :—Own Waterworks. Gathering ground at Rivington.
- (b) Condition—A good constant supply direct to all houses, supplying about 918 houses.
- (c) Possibility of contamination—Practically none.

SCAVENGING.

This is satisfactorily done by the Sanitary Authority.

Privy Middens are emptied by day, and refuse is disposed of by tips and land irrigation.

There is no Destructor.

SEWAGE DISPOSAL.

Method of treatment is irrigation. Character of drainage system —Combined and separate systems.

Sanitary Inspections during the Year.

Number of premises visited	553
Defects or Nuisances discovered	327
Number abated	327
Notices served :—Informal 276 ; Statutory 51.	
Legal proceedings taken —nil.	

SMOKE NUISANCE

No special action was taken with regard to smoke abatement. Three observations were taken, with satisfactory results.

OFFENSIVE TRADES

None in the District.

SLAUGHTERHOUSES.

There are no Public Slaughterhouses ; there are 2 private ones, 1 registered, and 1 licenced. They are regularly inspected and found satisfactory.

BAKEHOUSES.

There are 2 retail bakehouses which are regularly inspected.

COMMON LODGING HOUSES—None in the District.

SCHOOLS.

There are 3 schools in the district, and improvement in their sanitary condition is still needed.

DAIRIES, COWSHEDS, AND MILKSHOPS.

These have been inspected and the condition of them was found to be satisfactory

FACTORIES AND WORKSHOPS

Number in the District	...	...	...	8
Collieries	...	...	...	1
Bleachworks	...	...	...	1
Weaving Sheds	...	...	...	1
Cloggers	...	...	...	2
Wheelwrights	...	...	...	1
Plumbers and Joiners	...	...	...	2

10 Inspections during the year.

Infectious Diseases and Disinfection.

Number of Houses disinfected during the year—31.

Rooms are fumigated with "Tower" fumigators, and patients suffering from Infectious Disease are removed by motor Ambulance to Fall Birch Hospital.

Number of Patients admitted to Hospital during the year 1937 was 31.

Conveniences in the District.

Privy Middens—Middens	...	...	101
Closets attached...	...	...	182
Pail Closets	...	...	18
Dry Ashpits (excluding middens)	...	...	5
Movable Ashbins	...	...	614
Number of houses on Water Carriage system	...	...	698
Fresh Water Closets	...	...	682
Waste Water Closets	...	...	16

CONVERSIONS DURING THE YEAR.

Privy Closets to Fresh Water Closets	...	26
Pail Closets to Fresh Water Closets	...	2
Waste W.C.'s to Fresh W.C.'s	...	2
Number of Houses at which Movable Ashbins have been substituted for fixed receptacles	...	33

Housing.

Number of New Houses erected during the year :

1.	By the Local Authority	...	...	...	nil
2.	By other bodies or persons	...	...	...	7

INSPECTION OF DWELLING HOUSES DURING THE YEAR :—

1.	(a)	Total number of dwelling houses inspected for housing defects (under Public Health or Housing Acts)	282
	(b)	Number of Inspections made for the purpose	332
2	(a)	Number of dwelling houses (included under 1 above) which were inspected and recorded under the Housing Consolidated Regulations 1925	85
	(b)	Number of Inspections made for the purpose	120
3		Number of houses found to be in a state so dangerous or injurious to health as to be unfit for human habitation	27
4.		Number of dwelling houses (exclusive of those referred to under the preceding) found not to be in all respects reasonably fit for human habitation	43

REMEDY OF DEFECTS DURING THE YEAR WITHOUT SERVICE OF FORMAL NOTICES

Number of defective dwelling houses rendered fit in consequence of informal action by the Local Authority or their officers	33
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ACTION UNDER STATUTORY POWERS DURING THE YEAR

(A) PROCEEDINGS UNDER SECTIONS 9, 10 and 16 OF THE HOUSING ACT 1936.

(1)	Number of dwelling houses in respect of which notices were served requiring repairs	...	...	...	30
(2)	Number of dwelling houses which were rendered fit after service of formal notices :				
	(a)	By Owners...	...	...	30
	(b)	By Local Authority in default of Owners	...		nil

(B) PROCEEDINGS UNDER PUBLIC HEALTH ACTS.

1.	Number of dwelling houses in respect of which notices were served requiring defects to be remedied	...	1
2.	Number of dwelling houses in which defects were remedied after service of formal notices :		
(a)	By Owner	... ..	1
(b)	By Local Authority in default of Owners	...	nil

(C) PROCEEDINGS UNDER SECTIONS 11 AND 13 OF THE HOUSING ACT 1936.

1	Number of dwelling houses in respect of which demolition orders were made	... ..	5
2	Number of dwelling houses demolished in pursuance of demolition orders	... ..	nil

(D) PROCEEDINGS UNDER SECTION 12 OF THE HOUSING ACT 1936.

1.	Number of separate tenements or underground rooms in respect of which closing orders were made	...	1
2.	Number of separate tenements or underground rooms in respect of which closing orders were determined, the tenement or room having been rendered fit	...	nil

HOUSING ACT 1936. PART 4. OVERCROWDING.

(a)	1.	Number of dwellings overcrowded at the end of the year	15
	2.	Number of families dwelling therein	15
	3.	Number of persons dwelling therein	105
(b)		Number of new cases of overcrowding reported during the year	1
(c)	1.	Number of cases of overcrowding relieved during the year	13
	2.	Number of persons concerned in such cases	75½

HOUSING CONDITIONS.

Conditions are fair, with some improvements during the year. Some overcrowding has been relieved, but there is still a house shortage. Twenty four houses are being erected, and will shortly be ready for occupation.

Notable Sanitary Improvements during 1937.

Conversions of privies and waste W.C's. to fresh W.C's.; old drainage renewals, drainage ventilation. Closure of insanitary parts of buildings used as dwellings, confiscation, alteration, and reconditioning of insanitary houses.

Chief Sanitary requirements of the district.

Adequate housing, reconditioning and repairs, and completion of privy conversions.

I am, Gentlemen,

Yours faithfully,

J. W. UNSWORTH, M.O.H.

Hilton House, Blackrod,
May 16th, 1938.

Schofield, Printer, Adlington.